

Newspaper: Providence Journal

Date: July 4, 2007

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10 questions for the 10 gubernatorials

It is far easier for the media to report that there are 10 potential candidates 3½ years out from the gubernatorial race than to ask specifically what these candidates think about real issues. If such questions were asked, it would enable the public to determine if these candidates are visionary, insightful, and consistent.

Below are 10 questions that the media don't have the guts (or the forethought) to ask Charlie Fogarty, Elizabeth Roberts, David

Cicilline, Patrick Lynch, Steve Laffey, Scott Avedisian, A. Ralph Mollis, Joseph Trillo, Robert Weygand, Lincoln Chafee and anyone else may be included in the speculation pool (myself humbly included).

1. Which do you support more, the governor's budget or the General Assembly's budget, and why? (25 words)

2. What three initiatives would you introduce to help end the state's fiscal crisis? (10 words per initiative)

3. What is the top priority of Rhode Island government today? (10 words)

4. Where will Rhode Island be in two years? five years? (20 words per answer)

5. Yes or no: Should the state re-open teacher contracts on the local level?

6. Where, if at all, would you cut social services?

7. What is your position on the governor's layoff plan? (20 words)

8. Yes or no: Should the General Assembly listen to the governor and halt pay raises for state workers?

9. Yes or no: Should Rhode Island privatize its work force, to the fullest extent possible?

10. Name three to five of your top priorities for government. (5 words per priority)

By knowing the answers today, the people could make much more informed selections in the voting booth come 2010.

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